THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) According to the information provided by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), it has set up a virtual organization named 'Council for Clean India'. There is no intention of making it into a registered or a corporate body. Its main objective is to provide a common forum for individuals, NGOs and other eminent persons to come together and provide suggestions in the task of fighting corruption in public services.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Use of IT in SSI sector

*266. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Small Scale Industry is much backward so far as application of Information Technology is concerned;

(b) whether the SSI is lacking in productivity, cost control and competitiveness in the absence of Information Technology;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to give incentives to the SSI with a view to help them in inducting Information Technology; and

(d) if so, the details of.the steps takeivbeing taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (d) The SSI sector is increasingly using Information Technology (IT) to enhance its competitiveness, both domestically and globally. IT is being applied by SSIs in communication, office automation, marketing, accountancy, Computer Aided Design (CAD)/Computer Aided Manufacture (CAM) etc. Besides, SSIs have a significant presence in software development & IT enabled services. Government has been actively promoting the induction of IT in SSIs

through its CAD/CAM centres, Tool Rooms, Product-cum-Process Development Centres, Technology Resource Centres, Sub Contracting Exchanges, National level Entrepreneurship Training Institutes, training one-commerce and the Small Enterprises Information and Resource Centre Network (SENET) programme, which includes a comprehensive knowledge portal for SSIs.

Uniform sugarcane price

*267. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not having uniform sugarcane price all over the country as sugarcane itself is a major cost input in manufacturing sugar; and

(b) if not, the administrative difficulties in doing so?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966, the Central Government fixes the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane for each sugar season (October—September) payable by the sugar factories to the sugarcane growers. The basic SMP linked to 8.5% recovery is uniform. For every 0.1% point increase in recovery above 8.5%, the rate of premium is also uniform. However, the SMP payable by the sugar factories varies from factory to factory depending upon the recovery level.

FBI Director's Delhi Visit

*268. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether following the Home Minister's US visit, the Director Investigation of the Federal Bureau of Investigations of the US, Mr. Robert S. Mueller visited New Delhi;

(b) if so, the purpose of the visit and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the nature and extent of cooperation to fight terrorism expected to be extended by the FBI?